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General Assembly

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United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Eighteenth meeting
15-19 May 2017

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 54/33, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will develop, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Informal Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Informal Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods in resolutions 57/141 and 60/30, and for additional two-year periods in resolutions 63/111, 65/37 A, 67/78, 69/245 and 71/257.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 13 March 2017, the Co-Chairs, Kornelios Korneliou (Cyprus) and Gustavo Meza-Cuadra (Peru), have developed a format for the discussions at the eighteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (see annex I) and have proposed a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "The effects of climate change on oceans" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider.

4. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

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Annex I

Format for the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 54/33 and by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. Within the constraints of the available space, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. The Co-Chairs will propose a provisional agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The provisional agenda will take into account paragraphs 331 to 333 and 339 of General Assembly resolution 71/257. The eighteenth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable, accordingly.

Discussion panel

5. In paragraph 339 of resolution 71/257, the General Assembly decided that the meeting would focus its discussions on the theme "The effects of climate change on oceans". On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the topic to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

Outcome of the eighteenth meeting

6. The outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As with past practice, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the summary will be presented to the meeting. The summary will be for reference purposes only. The Co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the General Assembly.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Monday, 15 May 2017 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the eighteenth meeting

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, or their designated representatives, will open the proceedings on behalf of the Secretary-General.

2. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the eighteenth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that, during the general exchange of views, delegations may wish to address in particular the topic of the eighteenth meeting, "The effects of climate change on oceans".

5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

6. The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, will be invited to introduce a Technical Abstract on the impact of climate change on the oceans, prepared by the Group of Experts of the Regular Process and to be considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process at its meeting, to be held on 17 and 18 April 2017, pursuant to paragraphs 299 and 317 of General Assembly resolution 71/257.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel
The effects of climate change on oceans

7. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. It is proposed that each segment begin with panel presentations, followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

[a] All sessions will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Segment 1
The effects of climate change on oceans, including environmental, social and economic implications

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Tuesday, 16 May 2017 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 1 (continued)
The effects of climate change on oceans, including environmental, social and economic implications

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 2
Cooperation and coordination in addressing the effects of climate change on oceans: current actions and opportunities for further enhancement

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Wednesday, 17 May 2017 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 2 (continued)
Cooperation and coordination in addressing the effects of climate change on oceans: current actions and opportunities for further enhancement

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 2 (continued)
Cooperation and coordination in addressing the effects of climate change on oceans: current actions and opportunities for further enhancement

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Thursday, 18 May 2017 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

8. In accordance with the terms of reference for UN-Oceans adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/70, the United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea is the focal point of UN-Oceans and represents UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including, inter alia, those under the General Assembly. To ensure transparency and accountability, UN-Oceans, upon request from the Assembly, reports to Member States in the

context of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. In that regard, and pending such request, the focal point of UN-Oceans will be invited to make a brief statement on the activities of UN-Oceans.

Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

9. The Informal Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 333 of resolution 71/257, that the "Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea". Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea, taking into account resolution 71/257 on the topic of the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process

10. The Informal Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of the relevant section of the reports on the work of the Informal Consultative Process from its fourth to its seventeenth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164, A/66/186, A/67/120, A/68/159, A/69/90, A/70/78 and A/71/204). The Co-Chairs will inform the Informal Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the eighteenth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the Assembly. In that regard, they will recall that in accordance with resolution 71/257, paragraph 339, the Informal Consultative Process shall focus its discussion at its nineteenth meeting in 2018 on the theme "Anthropogenic underwater noise".

3-6 p.m.[a]

[Reserved]

Friday, 19 May 2017 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.[a]**

Third plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting

11. The Informal Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. The outcome will further include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The summary will be for reference purposes only.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "The effects of climate change on oceans"

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly decided in resolution 71/257 that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions on the topic "The effects of climate change on oceans". Pending issuance of the report of the Secretary-General in all official languages, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has made available on its website (www.un.org/Depts/los/) advance and unedited reporting material on oceans and the law of the sea for the seventy-second session of the Assembly, relating to this topic.

Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 54/33, consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, established the Informal Consultative Process to facilitate its annual review, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in resolution 71/257, recognized the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. It also recognized the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development.

3. In particular, the discussions held at the eighteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process could be of relevance to the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292, entitled "Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction", and to the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as well as to processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

4. In considering the topic of focus, it is proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) The effects of climate change on oceans, including environmental, social and economic implications

5. The panel segment could provide an overview of the effects of climate change and related changes in the atmosphere on oceans, including key drivers of change affecting oceans and their environmental, social and economic implications, including on food security. Specific topics that will be addressed are the effects of ocean warming on marine ecosystems, biodiversity and marine species, including changes in their distribution, sea level rise, deoxygenation, melting ice in polar regions and extreme weather events, the effects of carbon dioxide flux and ocean acidification, and cumulative impacts, including interaction with other drivers.

(b) Cooperation and coordination in addressing the effects of climate change on oceans: current action and opportunities for further enhancement

6. The discussion panel segment could focus on the essential role of cooperation and coordination at all levels, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships, in addressing the effects of climate change and related changes in the atmosphere on oceans, in particular in the implementation of legal and policy frameworks relating to oceans and the law of the sea, climate change and sustainable development; the collection and dissemination of relevant scientific data; and the development of ocean-based adaptation and mitigation measures and strategies for climate-resilient sustainable development. Throughout this segment, current actions, identified solutions and opportunities for further enhancement of cooperation and coordination in addressing the effects of climate change and related changes in the atmosphere on oceans would be considered.

7. Issues relating to capacity-building, partnerships and financing mechanisms are cross-cutting and would also be integrated throughout, with special consideration given to the needs of small island developing States and the least developed countries.